

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 29, 2016

AMENDED IN SENATE FEBRUARY 18, 2016

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 877**

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**Introduced by Senator Pan**  
**(Principal coauthors: Senators Monning and Wolk)**  
~~(Coauthor: Assembly Member Bonta)~~  
*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bonta and Brown)*

January 15, 2016

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An act to add Article 3 (commencing with Section 131230) to Chapter 2 of Part 1 of Division 112 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to public health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 877, as amended, Pan. Reporting and tracking of violent deaths.

Existing law establishes the State Department of Public Health, which is responsible for various programs relating to the health and safety of people in the state, including licensing health facilities, regulating food and drug safety, and monitoring and preventing communicable and chronic diseases.

This bill ~~would~~ *would, to the extent that funding is appropriated by the Legislature or available through private funds in each fiscal year,* require the department to establish and maintain the California Electronic Violent Death Reporting System. The bill would further require the department to collect data on violent deaths, as specified, and ~~contract with counties~~ *enter into contracts, grants, or other agreements with one or more local agencies* to collect certain data, and would authorize the department to apply for grants to implement these provisions. *The bill would, to the extent that funding is available for this purpose, authorize a law enforcement agency to report to the*

*department data on the circumstances surrounding all violent deaths from investigative reports and laboratory toxicology reports to be used by the department for the limited purpose of conducting public health surveillance and epidemiology. The bill would also make related legislative findings and declarations.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3 (a) Information and data regarding violent deaths can help  
4 provide states and communities with a clearer understanding of  
5 violent deaths and therefore lead to better prevention of violent  
6 deaths.

7 (b) According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and  
8 Prevention (CDC), in the United States, violence accounts for  
9 approximately 56,000 deaths annually. Violent deaths result from  
10 the intentional use of physical force or power against oneself,  
11 another person, or a group or community, and include suicide,  
12 homicide, and legal intervention deaths. Violence adversely affects  
13 all Americans, not only through premature death, but also through  
14 medical costs and lost productivity.

15 (c) The CDC further notes that the cost of these deaths totaled  
16 \$47.2 billion: \$47 billion in work loss costs and \$215 million in  
17 medical treatment.

18 (d) In 2002, the National Violent Death Reporting System  
19 (NVDRS) was established as a surveillance system that pulls  
20 together data on violent deaths. NVDRS collects information from  
21 death certificates, coroner or medical examiner reports, police  
22 reports, and crime laboratories.

23 (e) NVDRS data informs decisionmakers and program planners  
24 about the magnitude, trends, and characteristics of violent deaths  
25 in a particular state or community so appropriate prevention efforts  
26 can be identified and implemented, and the data facilitates the  
27 evaluation of state-based prevention programs and strategies.

28 (f) According to NVDRS, a national system will allow the CDC  
29 to provide information for every state to inform their prevention  
30 efforts. It will also ensure enhanced information on the national

1 scope of the problem of violent deaths is available to monitor and  
2 track trends and to inform national efforts.

3 SEC. 2. Article 3 (commencing with Section 131230) is added  
4 to Chapter 2 of Part 1 of Division 112 of the Health and Safety  
5 Code, to read:

6  
7 Article 3. Electronic Violent Death Reporting System  
8

9 131230. (a) ~~The~~ *To the extent that funding is appropriated by*  
10 *the Legislature or available through private funds in each fiscal*  
11 *year, the department shall establish and maintain the California*  
12 *Electronic Violent Death Reporting System.*

13 (b) The department shall collect data on violent deaths as  
14 reported from data sources, including, but not limited to, death  
15 certificates, law enforcement reports, and coroner or medical  
16 examiner ~~reports.~~ *reports. The department shall post on its Internet*  
17 *Web site a summary and analysis of the collected data.*

18 (c) The department shall ~~contract with counties~~ *enter into*  
19 *contracts, grants, or other agreements with one or more local*  
20 *agencies to collect the data specified in subdivision (b).*

21 (d) *To the extent that funding is available for this purpose, a*  
22 *law enforcement agency may report to the department data on the*  
23 *circumstances surrounding all violent deaths from investigative*  
24 *reports and, if available, laboratory toxicology reports to be used*  
25 *by the department for the limited purpose of conducting public*  
26 *health surveillance and epidemiology. Aggregate data shall be*  
27 *public, but individual identifying information shall remain*  
28 *confidential. The collected data shall be based on the data elements*  
29 *of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's*  
30 *National Violent Death Reporting System.*

31 ~~(d)~~

32 (e) The department may apply for grants provided under the  
33 National Violent Death Reporting System ~~of the federal Centers~~  
34 ~~for Disease Control and Prevention~~ *for purposes of implementing*  
35 *this section.*

36 ~~(e)~~

37 (f) The department may accept private or foundation moneys  
38 to implement this section.

39 ~~(f)~~

1 (g) This section does not limit data sources that the department  
2 may collect, which may include any public agency document that  
3 may contain data on violent deaths.

4 *131231. For purposes of this article, “violent death” means*  
5 *a death resulting from the use of physical force or power against*  
6 *oneself, another person, or a group or community, and includes,*  
7 *but is not limited to, homicide, suicide, legal intervention deaths,*  
8 *unintentional firearm deaths, and undetermined intent deaths.*